

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 INR-07 L-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SP-02 NSCE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IO-03 /044 W

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R 180810Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 842

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2752

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: ADS. DECLASS. 3/31/76

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJECT: THAI/NORTH VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

REF: A. BANGKOK 2705

B. FBIS BANGKOK 120217Z FEB. 75

C. FBIS BANGKOK 180233Z FEB. 75

1. WE SUGGESTED IN REF A THAT THAI/NORTH VIETNAMESE RELATIONS WILL DEPEND IN PART ON PUBLIC OPINION, AND WHETHER THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL RESPOND TO RATHER THAN LEAD PUBLIC OPINION.

2. "THE NATION" ON FEBRUARY 12 SUGGESTED IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL (REF B) THAT THAILAND, IN VIEW OF THE DETERIORATING SITUATION THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA, SHOULD KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN. OF SPECIAL INTEREST IS "THE NATION'S" REFERENCE TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO LET THE PRG OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN SYDNEY. "THE NATION" CAUTIONS THE NEXT GOVERNMENT AGAINST FALLING BACK ON OLD RIGID FORMULAE FOR DEALING WITH EVENTS IN INDOCHINA.

3. "THE NATION" IN ITS FEBRUARY 17 EDITORIAL AGAIN
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DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT NORTH VIETNAM HAS

A WELL-TIMED PROGRAM FOR ALL OF INDOCHINA. "THE NATION"
WONDERS WHY CAMBODIA HAS NOT FALLEN SINCE IT BELIEVES
THE COMMUNISTS HAVE LONG HAD THE CAPABILITY TO TAKE
PHNOM PENH. THE PAPER CONCLUDES THAT HANOI HAS A TWO YEAR
PLAN AND WILL NOT PUSH HARD FOR THE COOOAPSE OF CAMBODIA
OR LAOS AT THIS TIME BECAUSE IT FEARS THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE
REACTION IN THE U.S. CONGRESS.

4.. COMMENT: "THE NATION" IN ITS EARLIER EDITORIAL SEEMS
TO BE ADVOCATING FLEXIBILITY TOWARD HANOI, WHILE THE
LATER ONE TELLS THE THAI TO WATCH OUT FOR NORTH
VIETNAMESE MACHINATIONS.
KINTNER

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